# Academic Essay Outline
## Writing Studio

### Introduction Paragraph
**Hook/Attention Grabber:**
Start your introduction with a “hook” that captures your reader's attention and introduces your topic. Here are some examples:

- Provide an intriguing fact or surprising statistic about your topic
- Ask a thought-provoking question or a series of thought-provoking questions
- Reveal a common misconception about your topic
- Use an interesting quote that relates to your argument
- Share a vivid and unexpected anecdote (short story) related to your topic (“Introductions & Conclusions” and “Essay Introductions”).

**Bridge:**
Add a sentence or more that shifts the focus from your hook to the main argument. Include general facts or background information on your topic that provides context necessary to understand your thesis (“Introductions & Conclusions” and “Essay Introductions”).

**Thesis Statement:**
Your thesis statement is the main argument of your paper. What are you trying to prove?

*Example:* “Drunk driving laws need to include stricter penalties for those convicted of drinking under the influence of alcohol” (“Essay Introductions”).

**Road Map:**
The road map lists the main points you will use to support your thesis and gives the reader a sense of how the main points are organized. The map may be incorporated in your thesis statement, or it may be the sentence before or after (“Essay Introductions”).

*Example:* “Because drunk driving can result in unnecessary and premature deaths, permanent injury for survivors, and billions of dollars spent on medical expenses, drunk driving laws need to include stricter penalties for those convicted of drinking under the influence” (“Essay Introductions”).

# Body Paragraph

## Topic Sentence

A body paragraph should develop one single point that relates to your thesis. The topic sentence identifies this point; it tells the reader what to expect in the paragraph (“Paragraphs & Topic Sentences”).

## Explain Topic Sentence

More often than not, your topic sentence will require an explanation. Include this here. (“Strong Body Paragraphs”).

## Introduce Your Evidence:

Before you insert your evidence, be sure to identify the source and summarize the information to provide context (“Strong Body Paragraphs”).

*Example:* Edward P. J. Corbett, one of America's most distinguished rhetoricians, defines grammar clearly as " the study of how a language 'works'--a study of how the structural system of a language combines with a vocabulary to convey meaning" (“Strong Body Paragraphs”).

## Insert Your Evidence:

Evidence can include quotes, paraphrases, personal examples, facts, statistics, etc. (“Strong Body Paragraphs”).

## Unpack/Explain Your Evidence:

Explain what the evidence means and why it’s important to your argument (“Strong Body Paragraphs”).

## Insert a Concluding Sentence

End your paragraph with a sentence or sentences that explain how your paragraph relates to the argument as a whole and links to the next paragraph (“Strong Body Paragraphs”).

## Conclusion

### Restate Your Thesis

Remind your reader of the point of your paper. Make sure your phrasing is fresh and new; don't repeat what you wrote in the introduction ("Introductions & Conclusions" and "Essay Conclusions").

### Summary and Synthesis of Main Points

Your summary and synthesis may come before or after you restate your thesis. Summarize your main points, explain how they're connected, and show how they support your argument ("Introductions & Conclusions" and "Essay Conclusions").

### Provide Context

Help the reader understand why your topic is important. If your paper is a call to action, remind your reader what they should do or think. What is the key take away? ("Introductions & Conclusions" and "Essay Conclusions").


Works Cited:

"Essay Conclusions." University of Maryland Global Campus, https://www.umgc.edu/current-students/learning-resources/writing-center/writing-resources/parts-of-an-essay/conclusions.cfm.

"Essay Introductions." University of Maryland Global Campus, https://www.umgc.edu/current-students/learning-resources/writing-center/writing-resources/parts-of-an-essay/introductions.cfm.

"Introductions & Conclusions." Ashford University, https://writingcenter.ashford.edu/introductions-conclusions.

"Paragraphs & Topic Sentences." Indiana University Bloomington, https://wts.indiana.edu/writing-guides/paragraphs-and-topic-sentences.html.

"Strong Body Paragraphs." University of Washington, https://depts.washington.edu/owrc/Handouts/Strong%20Body%20Paragraphs.pdf.